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Agenda item 24 (b)

Operational activities for development: South-South cooperation for development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Glauco **Seoane** (Peru)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 24 (see A/71/468, para. 2). The Committee took action on sub-item (b) at the 15th and 28th meetings, on 18 October and 8 December 2016. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records.[1]

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/71/L.16 and A/C.2/71/L.61

2. At the 15th meeting, on 18 October, the representative of Thailand, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "South-South cooperation" (A/C.2/71/L.16).

3. At its 28th meeting, on 8 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "South-South cooperation" (A/C.2/71/L.61), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.16.

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the financial implications of draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.61.

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in three parts, under the symbols A/71/468, A/71/468/Add.1 and A/71/468/Add.2.

[1] A/C.2/71/SR.15 and A/C.2/71/SR.28.

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5. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Morocco made a statement on behalf of the facilitator of the draft resolution (Morocco) and orally corrected draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.61. Subsequently, a correction was made by the representative of Czechia.[2]

6. Also at its 28th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.61, as orally corrected (see para. 9).

7. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, as orally corrected, the representative of the United States made a statement.

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.61, as orally corrected, draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.16 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

[2] A/C.2/71/SR.28.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

South-South cooperation

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009, in which it endorsed the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,

Reaffirming also its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 60/212 of 22 December 2005, 62/209 of 19 December 2007, 63/233 of 19 December 2008, 64/1 of 6 October 2009, 66/219 of 22 December 2011, 67/227 of 21 December 2012, 68/230 of 20 December 2013, 69/239 of 19 December 2014 and 70/222 of 22 December 2015,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling its resolution 69/283 of 3 June 2015 on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[2] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[3] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Noting that 2018 will mark the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,

Recognizing that South-South cooperation is increasingly critical to bolstering the productive capacities of developing countries and has positive impacts on trade and financial flows, technological capabilities and economic growth, and reiterating the importance of global partnerships,

Stressing the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution,

Noting with appreciation the designation of the Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation,

1. *Takes note* of the decisions adopted by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its nineteenth session, held from 16 to 19 May 2016;[4]

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation,[5] as well as his report entitled "Comprehensive proposal on concrete ways to enhance the role and impact of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as well as the key measures taken to improve the coordination and coherence of United Nations support to South-South cooperation";[6]

3. *Recognizes* that the Joint Inspection Unit, in its report on South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system,[7] provided recommendations to the United Nations development system on implementing measures to further strengthen the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and in this regard requests continued effort to implement those recommendations that remain unfulfilled;

4. *Requests* the Joint Inspection Unit to present, by the end of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, a progress report on its recommendations to the United Nations development system on implementing measures to further strengthen the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation;

5. *Recognizes* the importance and unique history and particularities of South-South cooperation, reaffirms its view of South-South cooperation as a

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[2] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/71/39), chap. I.

[5] A/71/208.

[6] SSC/19/2.

[7] See A/66/717.

manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, which build upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seek to address their unfinished business, and also reaffirms that South-South cooperation and its agenda must be set by countries of the South and should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit;

6. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;

7. *Welcomes* the increased contributions of South-South cooperation to poverty eradication and sustainable development, encourages developing countries to voluntarily step up their efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation and to further improve its development effectiveness, in accordance with the provisions of the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,[8] and welcomes commitments to strengthen triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise to bear in development cooperation;

8. *Reaffirms* that South-South cooperation is a common endeavour of peoples and countries of the South, born out of shared experiences and sympathies, based on their common objectives and solidarity and guided by, inter alia, the principles of respect for national sovereignty and ownership, free from any conditionalities, that South-South cooperation should not be seen as official development assistance and that it is a partnership among equals based on solidarity, acknowledges in this regard the need to enhance the development effectiveness of South-South cooperation by continuing to increase its mutual accountability and transparency as well as coordinating its initiatives with other development projects and programmes on the ground, in accordance with national development plans and priorities, and recognizes that the impact of South-South cooperation should be assessed with a view to improving, as appropriate, its quality in a results-oriented manner;

9. *Encourages* the continued integration of South-South and triangular cooperation into the policies and strategic frameworks of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and requests those funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system that have not yet integrated South-South and triangular cooperation into their policies to do so, taking into account the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[9] and the complementary nature of South-South to North-South cooperation;

10. *Reiterates its request* to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, to make specific recommendations on additional support that United Nations system organizations and all States could provide to South-South and triangular

[8] Resolution 64/222, annex.
[9] Resolution 70/1.

cooperation, which could include the voluntary secondment of staff and the appointment of Junior Professional Officers to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, as well as measures to strengthen the system-wide efficiency and impact of the Office;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make necessary adjustments, as appropriate, to the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation,[10] in consultation with all States and organizations of the United Nations development system;

12. *Reaffirms* the mandate and the central role of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as the focal point for promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation for development on a global and United Nations system-wide basis;

13. *Reiterates the request* to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, to establish a more formalized and strengthened inter-agency mechanism, coordinated by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, with a view to encouraging joint support to South-South and triangular initiatives and sharing information on development activities and results achieved by various organizations through their respective business models in support of South-South and triangular cooperation, calls upon the United Nations development system to designate representational focal points to join the mechanism, and requests the Administrator to give the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation the opportunity to be represented more regularly in strategic and coordination mechanisms of the United Nations Development Group when matters affecting South-South and triangular cooperation are being discussed, and in this regard welcomes the progress made by the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Task Team of the United Nations Development Group to this effect;

14. *Calls upon* the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant organizations of the United Nations development system to assist developing countries in implementing projects of South-South cooperation, including sharing best practices and experiences from the South, especially with the least developed countries, upon request and in a manner consistent with their mandates and strategic plans;

15. *Invites* the United Nations development system to encourage the transfer of technologies on mutually agreed terms for the benefit of developing countries to address poverty eradication and sustainable development;

16. *Welcomes* the launch, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, and looks forward to its continued development and full operationalization;

17. *Requests* the United Nations Development Group, including its South-South and Triangular Cooperation Task Team, and the United Nations country teams, within existing resources and in close consultation and coordination with the Governments of developing countries and other international organizations, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations

[10] SSC/17/3.

Conference on Trade and Development, to continue the mapping and documentation of good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation, in particular those that are relevant to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, taking into account the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda[11] and the complementary nature of South-South to North-South cooperation;

18. *Takes note with appreciation* of the eighth annual Global South-South Development Expo, held from 31 October to 3 November 2016, hosted by the Government of the United Arab Emirates, on the theme "Enhancing innovation towards achieving the 2030 Agenda", showcasing sustainable development solutions that can be scaled up and replicated through South-South and triangular cooperation;

19. *Recognizes* the important role of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, and in this context requests the Secretary-General, with the support of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, to take steps, within existing resources, to update existing and to create appropriate new policy tools in order that the United Nations system may effectively support Member States, upon request, in using South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation to assist in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

20. *Acknowledges* the positive efforts made by United Nations organizations to develop thematic strategies for the implementation of South-South cooperation, and in this regard urges the United Nations development system, in consultation with all States, to strive to increasingly leverage, as appropriate, South-South cooperation to bolster its impact in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

21. *Requests* the United Nations system to enhance its support in the areas where South-South cooperation has proved effective, namely, capacity-building, policy coordination, regional integration, interregional linkages, infrastructure interconnectivity and the development of national productive capacities through exchanges of knowledge and technological innovations;

22. *Welcomes* the support provided by developing countries to South-South and triangular initiatives aimed at improving nutrition and food security, and invites the replication of this approach in other relevant areas, drawing on the technical expertise of various United Nations organizations;

23. *Notes* that, in response to the growing demand for support to South-South cooperation at the regional and subregional levels, the regional commissions have advanced South-South cooperation by undertaking policy research and analysis on issues of importance to their member States, convening high-level policy dialogues, forging strategic partnerships and promoting specific capacity-development and other initiatives, and, in this regard, invites the regional commissions to support developing countries, upon request, in integrating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into their nationally owned sustainable development strategies, in areas such as regional development planning and fiscal frameworks, and to help to promote policy coherence and coordination and the

[11] Resolution 69/313.

enhancement of the data and statistical capacities of Member States for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

24. *Reaffirms* that South-South cooperation embraces a multi-stakeholder approach, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, academia and other actors that contribute to meeting development challenges and objectives in line with national development strategies and plans;

25. *Urges* the United Nations system to continue its support to regional and subregional organizations, enabling their member countries to build more partnerships and cross-border frameworks, with a view to promoting and scaling up best practices with the potential to benefit a large number of developing countries;

26. *Welcomes* the growing number of forums convened for Governments and other policymakers to discuss, in a participatory and inclusive manner, South-South cooperation initiatives and their contribution towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including addressing challenges, lessons learned and good practices in key areas;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present, as part of his comprehensive report to the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its twentieth session, in consultation with all States, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant agencies, recommendations and an update on the concrete steps taken to strengthen the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, taking into account the need to enhance the role and improve the impact of the Office under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme, including in the areas of financial, human and budgetary resources and through the potential appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation, as well as to clarify the management relationships, reporting lines and functions and to improve transparency, accountability and efficiency, taking into account matters covered in the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its nineteenth session,[12] Committee decision 19/1 of 19 May 2016 and decision 2016/13 of 10 June 2016 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services;

28. *Recognizes* the need to mobilize adequate resources for enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this context invites all countries in a position to do so to contribute, in support of such cooperation, to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation and to the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, in accordance with its resolution 57/263 of 20 December 2002, and to support other initiatives for all developing countries, including technology transfers among developing countries;

29. *Requests* the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to effectively provide the secretariat required by States in marking the fortieth anniversary of the adoption in 1978 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries;[1]

[12] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/71/39).

30. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen and further invigorate South-South cooperation, and, in this regard, decides to convene, with extrabudgetary resources and making use of the existing coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system, a high-level United Nations conference on South-South cooperation on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, no later than the first half of 2019, and requests the President of the General Assembly to undertake the necessary intergovernmental negotiations in order to prepare for the proposed conference, with a view to the adoption by the Assembly, before the end of 2017, of a resolution on the nature, date, objectives and modalities of the conference, in full compliance with, and under the principles of, the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

31. *Welcomes* the generous offer by the Government of Argentina to host the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation;

32. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

33. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "Operational activities for development", the sub-item entitled "South-South cooperation for development", unless otherwise agreed, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation, including an assessment of the concrete measures taken by the United Nations development system to improve its support to South-South cooperation at the global, regional and national levels, as appropriate, and on the implementation of the present resolution, including all aspects contained in paragraph 27 above, on an exceptional basis and without setting any precedent for future reports of the Secretary-General.